

*Audump - States (Ver.)*

*To the Members of the General Assembly:*

To the women of Vermont, the home lovers and home makers, political strife with its rancor and bitterness, is distasteful, but the importunity of a small, but loud and shrill voiced group of our discontented sisters, looking for a coveted place in the blaze of political sunlight, compels us, though reluctant, to urge upon your consideration a few of the many reasons which should convince you that universal suffrage, granted to women, is a burden, not a privilege; a punishment, not a reward; an irreparable injury, not a benefit.

The insistency of the Catt calls, whose piercing appeals unfit the ear for reasoning attention is justified by the shriekers upon the plea that they must have something, and have it now. What is it? Equality. Equality with men? Reform the fundamental scheme? Make women and men equal—the same? Physically? The demand is, give women the present functions of men. What scheme is to be reformed, Human or Divine? Which is to be unsexed, man or woman? Are we to legislate for the present generation? What of the future? Has woman no better, no higher aspiration than to cast a vote into the ballot box? And if that is done, what is accomplished? Better government? How? Instead of devoting her thought and conduct to acts of real public service and individual benefit, such as disease prevention, infant welfare, unemployment, housing, education, where the activities and unselfishness and divine attributes of ideal womanhood, so beautifully illustrated in the work of such as Florence Nightingale and Mrs. Wadsworth, find their natural sphere, the suffragists give up their lives, and exhaust their expiring energies in implorations, now plaintive, now compelling; give me a cooky, give it now? Or is it a sweet morsel of chewing gum to cure the pangs of civic indigestion?

Seriously, what will be accomplished by votes for women? How, and to what extent will the community be improved by adding to the already heavy burdens of the wives and mothers of Vermont the duty of, giving time, thought and action to the selection and election of candidates for public office?

Unless it can be shown that good will result, the experiment should not be tried. Has it resulted favorably where adopted? Ask the supporters of Miss Jeannette Rankin?

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

An army is to be officered. A generalissimo appointed.

*Candidates*

Marshal Foch  
Carrie Chapman Catt.

A subordinate general is to be chosen.

*Candidates*

John Pershing  
Anna Howard Shaw.

An officer to prepare, drill and equip the fighters.

*Candidates*

Leonard Wood  
Annette Parmelee.

*Equal suffrage?* Is it based on equality in every respect? Such is the theory of the suffragist. Needless to say that the legitimate consequence of this doctrine is not republican government, but Bolshevism, the final goal, after socialism and anarchy.

The true women of Vermont desire peace at home, prosperity in the state, and the right to enjoy the pursuit of happiness in the natural and rational way ordained by our fathers and sanctified by our Heavenly Father.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OPPOSED TO WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

January 13, 1919.

HELEN BURNHAM,  
Secretary.

*Vermont Historical Society, MSC 145:7*

*To the Members of the General Assembly:*

Know<sup>ing</sup> that those in favor of woman suffrage are bringing many arguments and petitions to your attention, the anti-suffragists are moved to invite your consideration of the other side of the question. We believe that the granting of votes to women would be a calamity and we cannot remain inactive while such an evil threatens the country. There are many sound reasons why the obligation of voting should not be imposed upon women, but we can in this way present only a few of them. First of all, the electorate should not rest with those who are unable to enforce their decisions. Women are physically incapable of this. Government, in the final analysis rests upon physical force. The recent war has given proof of the truth of this argument. You have been told that the ballot is an "inherent right." This we believe is not true. The ballot is not an inherent right, but an obligation resting upon men who are designed by the Creator as the protector of women. A letter from an advocate of suffrage appeared in a recent issue of a Vermont newspaper. In it the writer called special attention to the numerous wars that have been fought to maintain the principle of human liberty. In connection with the assertion we should like to add that every one of the wars referred to was fought by men.

One writer has said: "There is a difference between men and women unless the Creator has made a colossal mistake." You have been told by the President as well as by many suffragists that women have "earned" the right to vote by their self-sacrificing labors during the war. The women upon whom this reward would be bestowed have been and still are engaged in setting watch-fires and parading with insulting banners, etc., before the gates of the White House. Still others lie in wait at the capitol for the senators who voted against the Susan Anthony Amendment, and when they appear, surround them, reciting doggerel and in various other ways showing their wrath and disapproval of those who differ with them on woman suffrage. Many suffragists disclaim approval of acts of lawlessness of which the Washington "pickets" are guilty, but it is difficult to differentiate and the end sought is the same. The loyal, patriotic women who have been doing war relief work are not asking to be paid for their service by having the ballot conferred on them or any other form of compensation, and we regard the attempt to foist woman suffrage upon the country for such a reason as most unfair and without excuse. We beg you to recall the record of Miss Jeannette Rankin, the lady from Montana, in the House of Representatives. The suffragists proclaimed that her presence would be "a suffrage banner always on parade." At the critical time when the vote was taken which was to decide the part the United States was to take in the World War, Miss Rankin wept and then voted with the socialists and pacifists against the measure. We are thankful there were no more of her kind in Congress.

The present effort that is being made to force the passage of the Federal Amendment through the Senate of the United States should meet with the defeat it deserves. In the coming session of the Legislature we know that a strong effort will be made to add Vermont to the suffrage States. Petitions endorsing the movement are being widely circulated and pressure brought to bear on all legislators. Convinced of the wisdom and justice of our position in opposition to woman suffrage by either State or Federal Amendment, we ask your help to prevent this evil befalling the Green Mountain State.

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HELEN BURNHAM,

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